

saturn apartments



Hisae
Iwaoka

saturn apartments 1

HISAE IWAOKA



12 apartments mutos

FLOOR 1. EARTH 003

FLOOR 2. WORK 035

FLOOR 3. LIGHTS 059

FLOOR 4. A PLACE FAR AWAY 081

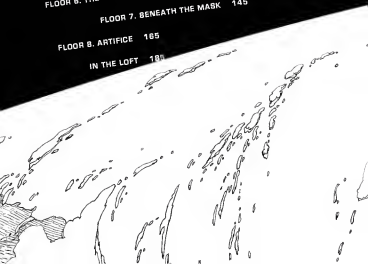
FLOOR 5. AN OCEAN 105

FLOOR 6. THE GREEN ROOM 125

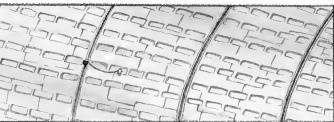
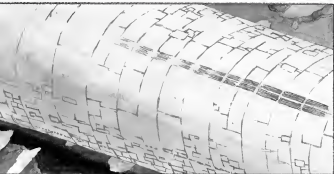
FLOOR 7. BENEATH THE MASK 145

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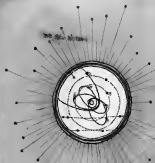
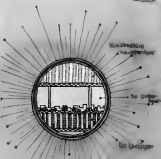


floor 1. earth



floor 1. earth

Circling the
Earth at an
altitude of
35,000
meters...





...is a
man-made
structure...



...a huge
apartment
complex
divided into
upper, middle,
and lower
levels, orbiting
the Earth.



We were all
born and
raised in
this giant
apartment
complex.

I KNOW
THAT AS
ALUMNI,
AFTER YOU
LEAVE
THESE
HALLS
BEHIND...

...YOUR FRIEND-
SHIPS WILL LIVE
ON, FREE OF
DISCRIMINATION...



No one's
allowed to
go down to
the surface
anymore
since the
whole Earth
was declared
a nature
preserve.

MITOU.

~~~~~  
~~~~~





MITSU.



I SWEAR
I'M NEVER
GONNA
WEAR A
SUIT
AGAIN.

YEAH.
THANKS.



THANKS
FOR COMING
TO MY
GRADUATION,
MR.
KAGEYAMA.

OH!

WHAT
TOOK
YOU SO
LONG?



I DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
DAD.

MUMBLE



I KNOW
YOUR
PARENTS
IN HEAVEN
MUST BE
PROUD OF
YOU, MITSU.



THAT'S
THE
LEAST
WE
CAN DO
FOR YOUR
OLD MAN.

THE
ELDER'S
IN THE
GUILD
SAY YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO PAY
BACK YOUR
STUDENT
LOAN.

NO WAY!
I'M
PAYING
IT BACK.





HE WAS
NABBED. HE'S
PROBABLY
GONNA GET A
HUGE FINE.

WHAT,
AGAIN?

HEY,
WHERE'S
KAGEYAMA?
ISN'T HE
WITH YOU?

WEL-
COME
HOME,
MITSU.

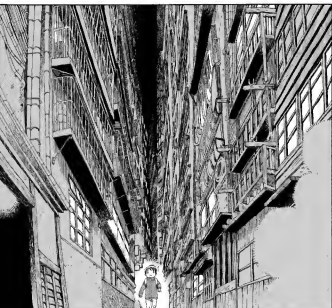


AWW,
THOSE
STARS
ARE
BRUTAL.

THE
ELEVATOR
TO THE
BASEMENT
IS
BROKEN.



WE'VE
GOTTA
COMPLAIN
TO THE
CONTROL
CENTER.







I DIDN'T
MEAN TO
BE DISRE-
SPECTFUL.



WHO
DO YOU
THINK
YOU
ARE?



THAT'S
EVEN
WORSE.



...my father disappeared on the job.

Five years ago...



IS THAT ANOTHER JOKE?

I ADMIRE MY DAD, BUT I'M AIMING HIGHER THAN HE DID.



Due to the atmospheric conditions outside, this work requires expensive equipment.

So work orders typically come from rich people in the upper levels.

He was a window washer.

He cleaned the exterior windows of the Ring System, 35,000 meters above the Earth.



TOMORROW I'M GOING TO BE WORKING ON THE LOWER SIDE OF THE RING. I MIGHT GET A GOOD LOOK AT HER.

A PHOTO OF THE EARTH.



WHAT'S THAT?



...orders come in from the lower levels.

Very rarely they had...



I'D LOVE
TO GO
DOWN
THERE.



OKAY,
DAD?

TELL ME
HOW IT
LOOKS,
OKAY?



DAD, IS
THAT A
BIG
DEAL?

IS THAT
A BIG
DEAL?

BA DAD

BA DAD



I'M SURE
HE'S FINE,
MATELL.
HE'S FINE.

It was
night
when
word
came.



...but I
think
I was
laughing.

I can't
remember
clearly...



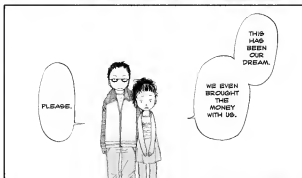
leaving
me and
everything
else
behind.

If Dad
determined
he was going
to die...

maybe he
chose to
go down to
Earth...

It looks to
me like Dad
cut this
rope.







WE CAN'T
AVOID
THAT
WORK
FOREVER.



TAKE
THE
JOB.



Besides...

...that
might
not have
been an
accident.



HONEY,
LEAVE
IT TO
US.

WE'LL
HAVE
THOSE
WINDOWS
SPARKLING.



AND SINCE
IT WAS
YOUR IDEA,
YOU CAN
DO IT.

GOT
IT?



DONT YOU
WORRY,
THE
KID'LL BE
WITH ME.

GEE
YA.





THINK OF
IT AS A
CHANCE
TO LEARN.



JIN
KNOWS
WHAT
HE'S
DOING.

HE'S
THINKING
OF
WHAT'S
BEST FOR
YOU.



JIN
WOULDN'T
KILL ME,
WOULD
HE?



WE'LL
GO OUT
THROUGH
THE TOP
LEVEL AND
TAKE THE
LIFT DOWN.

YES,
SIR.

YES,
SIR.

...BUT
THE AIR
PRESSURE'S
BEEN
EQUALIZED
TO THE
PRESSURE
OF THE
SUITS.

IT TOOK
SEVEN
HOURS...







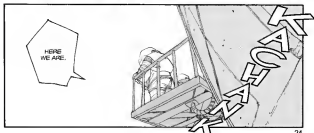
JUST BECAUSE
YOU'RE
PREPARED TO
DIE DOESN'T
MEAN YOU DIE
WITHOUT A
FIGHT.



...THIS ISN'T
A JOB
WORTH
DYING FOR.



RIGHT.



HERE
WE ARE.

KLAHOK
KLAHOK
KLAHOK







I'm
being
pulled
in.

I can't
take
my eyes
off it.



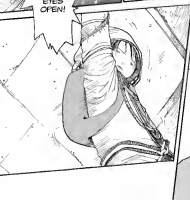


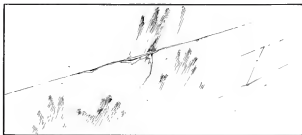


DON'T
PASS
OUT ON
ME!



KEEP
YOUR
EYES
OPEN!





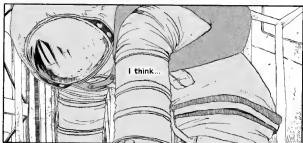
So many
hand
prints...

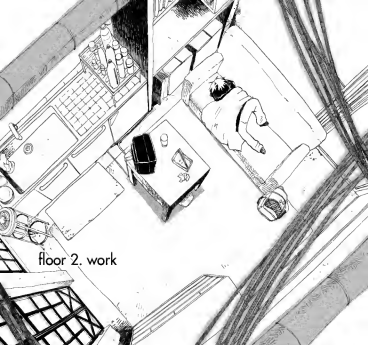


You
fought to
survive?

Dad...







floor 2. work



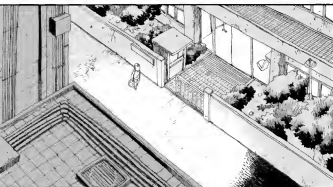
— OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
UNION FOR THE
RESURRECTION
OF NATURE WILL
DEPART FOR
THE EARTH'S
SURFACE.

...AND AT 10:36
A.M. ON THE
20TH, THE 63RD
SURVEILLANCE
MISSION —











DON'T
YOU
"YO"
ME...

RELAX.
ISN'T
YOUR
BREAK
COMING
UP?



HOW MANY
TIMES DO
I HAVE TO
TELL YOU!
THIS PLACE
IS OFF
LIMITS!

YO.



JINI



HEY,
TAMA-
CHI!



HERE.
THERE'S
ENOUGH
FOR
BOTH
OF US.

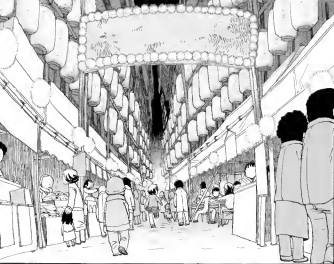


I DON'T
START
WORK
TILL THE
AFTERNOON.

I WAS
IN THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD.
HOW 'BOUT
LUNCH?













Dad's
accident...

No one
ever told
them the
real
reason
they
couldn't
finish.

BUT THEY
SAID THE
WINDS
WERE TOO
STRONG,
SO THEY
NEVER
FINISHED.

FIVE
YEARS AGO,
MY BIG
SISTER
HIRED
WINDOW
CLEANERS
FOR
HER OWN
WEDDING.

I
PRESSED
MY FACE
AGAINST
THE
GLASS.

THERE
WAS ONE
SMALL
SPOT THAT
HAD BEEN
CLEANED,
SO I
PEEKED
OUT.

IT'S NOT
UNTIL WE
START
GRADE
SCHOOL
ON THE
MIDDLE
LEVELS...

WE ONLY
HAVE
ARTIFICIAL
LIGHT
HERE ON
THE
LOWER
LEVELS.
YOU
KNOW?

I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
WHAT I
SAW.

...THAT WE
LEARN HOW
WONDERFUL
NATURAL
LIGHT IS.

REAL
SKY...
THE
EARTH...

...THE
LIGHT...
IT WAS SO
BEAUTIFUL.

THE FIRST
TIME MY
DAD TOOK
US UP TO
THE MIDDLE
LEVELS...

ERM
DONT GET
ME WRONG,
I LOVE
NATURAL
LIGHT, BUT
I HAD
ANOTHER
REASON.

IT WAS A
LITTLE
DIFFERENT
IN MY
CAGE.

SO YOU
DID THE
SAME?

SHE
SAVED
THE
MONEY,

THEY WANTED
A FORTUNE
TO CLEAN
THE WINDOWS
FOR MY
SISTER'S
WEDDING.

...HUMANS
MOVED
A MERE
35,000
METERS
FROM THE
EARTH'S
SURFACE?"

"WHY
DO
YOU
THINK...

ONE DAY,
SOHTA-
MY
FIANCE-
SAID...

IT WAS
ONLY
LATER
THAT I
MADE
UP MY
MIND.

HE SAID,
"I THINK
THEY JUST
COULDN'T
BEAR TO BE
SEPARATED
FROM THE
EARTH."

THAT'S
WHEN I
KNEW I
WAS IN
LOVE
WITH
SOHTA.

AND
THEN HE
SAYS...

What's
going on
with you
two?

BOON

AND NOT
EVERYTHING
CAN BE
SUBSTITUTED
BY SOMETHING
ARTIFICIAL.

IT WOULD
BE DIFFICULT
FOR HUMANS TO
THRIVE IN A
HERMETICALLY
SEALED
ENVIRONMENT
FOR THOUSANDS
OF YEARS.

BUT I
DON'T THINK
THAT'S THE
REAL
REASON.

MAN, EVEN IF I
GO TO COLLEGE,
I'LL PROBABLY
JUST BE STUCK
DOING USELESS
CALCULATIONS.

I'M SURE
YOU CAN
GET A JOB
IN THE
MIDDLE
LEVELS.

A TEACHER
OR SOMETHING...

WOW. SHE
MUST
HAVE BEEN
SAVING A
LONG TIME.

I THINK
SHE
STARTED
WHEN
SHE WAS
A KID.

MY SISTER
Hired
WINDOW
CLEANERS
FOR HER
WEDDING.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?
THAT MUST
COST A
FORTUNE.

I THINK I'LL
LOOK FOR A
PART-TIME
JOB IN THE
LOWER
LEVELS
AFTER I
GRADUATE
HIGH
SCHOOL.

...and he
could have
stayed on
doing
research...

...but only
if he could
afford the
tuition.

He was
planning
on
college...

In order to
get a job in
the middle
levels, you
have to
have an
advanced
degree.

I THINK I'D
RATHER
START
SAVING
RIGHT
AWAY.

WELL, IT'S
NOT EASY TO
GET A JOB IN
THE MIDDLE
LEVELS. YOU
HAVE TO
TAKE TESTS
AND STUFF.

WHAT'S
THAT ALL
ABOUT?

Then,
four
years
later...

I'LL
SAVE A
FORTUNE.

Yes

?



OH,
ABOUT
THAT....

I'VE
SAVED
ENOUGH
MONEY
TO....

HAVE YOU
APPLIED
FOR GRAD
SCHOOL
YET? I'LL
HELP!



CONGRATU-
LATIONS ON
GRADUATING
FROM
COLLEGE!



I had
planned on
using the
money I had
saved to
pay for his
tuition.

...BUT I
THINK IT'S
BECAUSE
I'M FROM
THE LOWER
LEVELS.

THEY
WOULDN'T
SAY
WHY....

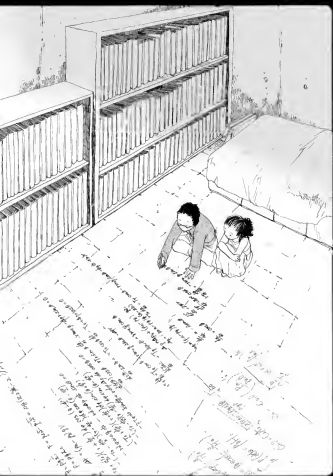
THEY TOLD
ME I
WOULDN'T BE
ABLE TO GET
A JOB IN THE
MIDDLE
LEVELS EVEN
IF I WENT TO
GRAD
SCHOOL..



SO TODAY
I FOUND
A JOB.

Getting him
into grad
school had
become my
own
dream.





To me, they
were nothing
but symbols...



...but they
were beautiful.



...AND I
THOUGHT IT
WOULD BE
FANTASTIC
TO HAVE
THAT WHOLE
BIG WINDOW
CLEANED.

I WANTED
TO BLOW
ALL THAT
MONEY I
HAD SAVED
ON SOME-
THING...

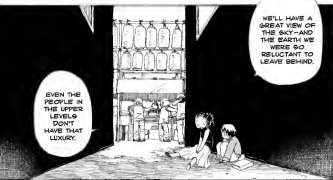


AND THEN
I REMEM-
BERED MY
SISTER AND
THE WINDOW
CLEANING.

SO A WHILE
AFTER HE
STARTED
WORKING,
WE DECIDED
TO GET
MARRIED.

HEH
HEH





EVEN THE
PEOPLE IN
THE UPPER
LEVELS
DON'T
HAVE THAT
LUXURY.

WE'LL HAVE A
GREAT VIEW OF
THE SKY-AND
THE EARTH WE
WERE SO
RELUCTANT TO
LEAVE BEHIND.



I'M SO
PLEASED
YOU WERE
ABLE TO
TAKE THE
JOB.

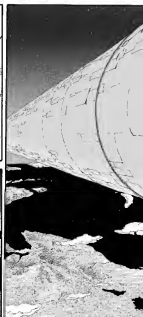
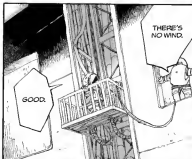
THANK
YOU.



PLEASE
LET ME
HELP.

...IS
THERE
STILL TIME
TO FINISH
THE
JOB WE
STARTED
YESTER-
DAY?

JIN...





But that's
not my
job.

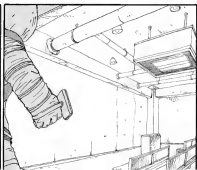
My job is
to clean
these
windows.



If I just
go down
a bit
farther,
I could
reach Dad's
handprints
and that
bit of
his glove.



Just focus
on the
windows...





The voice
recording
became
mandatory
after Dad's
accident!



HOW'S
THIS,
JIN?



wonder if
what Jin
just said
will be
recorded.

COULD BE
BETTER,
BUT IT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH.



My
first job,
finished.



OKAY,
WE'LL FIND
SOMEONE
ELSE TO
WORK WITH
YOU TODAY.

SAID HE
CAME
DOWN WITH
SOME-
THING. YOU
ON TODAY,
MITSU?







I'LL BE
JUST A
MINUTE!



HERE
YOU
ARE.

I pictured Jin
living
alone.



HM?

HEY...



YES, I'M A
BIT UNDER
THE
WEATHER.

YOU
HAVE
A...
COLD?



OK.

JIN
SHOULD
BE BACK
ANY TIME
NOW.







I KNOW SHE HATES HOSPITALS, BUT SHE NEEDS PROPER CARE.

SEE YA.



WE'VE GOTTEN ALONG FINE WITH A LITTLE COMFORT FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS.



BUT YOU'RE TELLING ME....



"SIDE EFFECT"?

NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MONEY.



BUT.... DOCTOR

...I WAS TOLD THIS MEDICINE WAS SAFE.



BUT NEXT TIME SOMETHING HAPPENS, I'LL DRAG HER KICKING AND SCREAMING IF I HAVE TO.

I CAN'T PUT HER THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.



...I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HAVE A CHILD...?



IS IT THE
ARTIFICIAL
LIGHT?

I'LL
LAY
OUT
YOUR
FUTON



I BLACK
OUT
ONCE IN
A WHILE.

There
has
been



ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT!?

MS.
HARUKO

OH,
MY.



ANEMIC,
MY
BUTT!

FWAP

I'M FINE.
JUST A
LITTLE
ANEMIC,
THAT'S
ALL.

PLEASE
LIE
DOWN.



THEY SAY
SOME
PEOPLE
WHO GREW
UP WITH
ONLY ARTI-
FICIAL
LIGHT
HAVE WEAK
IMMUNE
SYSTEMS.

IT'S
COMMON
AMONG
THE
OLDER
GENERA-
TIONS.

DALE



SHE'S
EVEN
MORE
STUBBORN
THAN JIN.



Not
that
he
ever
gets
sick.

...THOUGH I'D
MAKE JIN GO
IF HE EVER
GOT SICK.

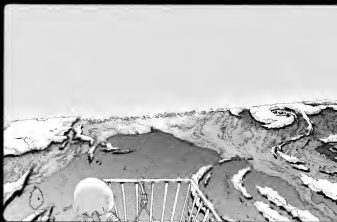


SHOULDN'T
YOU GO
TO THE
HOSPITAL?

I HATE
HOSPI-
TALS.









YOU'RE NOT
SURPRISED?

WELL...



OH.

I
SEE.

So he
was
there
when...



WHEN YOU HAVE A
PROBLEM,
TALK TO SOMEONE.

IT'S NOT A
DIFFICULT
THING TO
DO.



...HOW
MUCH
YOU'RE
LIKE AKI.

I
WONDER
...



I'D LIKE
TO MEET
HIM
SOME-
TIME.

Actually, I
am a bit
surprised.



YOU'RE
GOOD AT
PUTTING
JIN TO
USE,
AREN'T
YOU,
HARUKO?

SURE.



JIN WOULD
BE HAPPY
TO HELP
YOU ANY
WAY HE
CAN.

SO PUT
HIM TO
GOOD
USE.





I'M SURE
I'LL LIVE A
LONG LIFE,
BECAUSE
HE'S TAKEN
SUCH GOOD
CARE OF
ME.

I THINK JIN
MIGHT JUST
KICK THE
BUCKET
SOMEDAY.



THAT'S
ALL I
CAN DO
FOR HIM.

JUST
KEEP
HIM
FROM
FEELING
LONELY.



...SO I
FIGURE THE
LEAST I
CAN DO IS
GIVE HIM A
BRIGHT
ROOM TO
COME
HOME TO.

THIS
TOWN IS
SO DARK,
EVEN IN
THE
AFTER-NOON...



TAKING
OFF WORK
TO GO AND
BUY MY
MEDICINE
AS IF IT
WAS NO
BIG DEAL...

I WANT TO
THANK HIM
FOR ALL
THE LITTLE
THINGS HE
DOES FOR
ME.



HARUKO!



I BET
SOMEDAY
YOU'LL FIND
SOMEONE
TO DO THE
GAME FOR
YOU.



WEL-
COME
HOME.

I PICKED
UP A BIG
BAG OF
GINKGO
NUTS.

BUT
YOU'LL
GET A
NOSE-
BLEED IF
YOU EAT
TOO MANY,
SO...



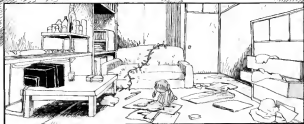
I'M
HOME
!!

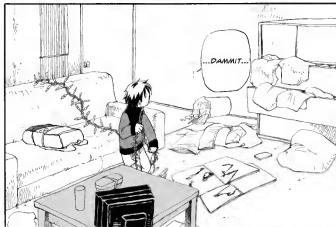


H...HEY,
MITSU.
GOOD
TO SEE
YA.

MITSU'S
HERE.

I HAVE TO
RUN HOME
BEFORE
WORK THIS
AFTER-
NOON.









I never
really
noticed...



YES,
MA'AM!

...but I think
a lot of
different
people have
been watching
out for me.

OH,
RIGHT.
JIN'S OFF
TODAY.
ISN'T HE.

YEAH, WITH
THE NEW
KID. MITSU,
WAS IT?

YOU
WORKING
TODAY,
MAKOTO?

MITSU,
HUN?

OH, I'LL
TEACH
HIM, ALL
RIGHT.

HE'S A
GOOD
KID. SHOW
HIM THE
ROPES.

YES,
YOU
WANT?





floor 4: a place far away



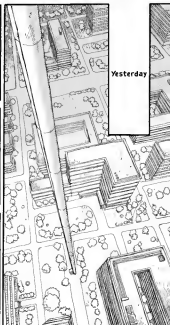
YOU
MEAN...
AKI'S...?



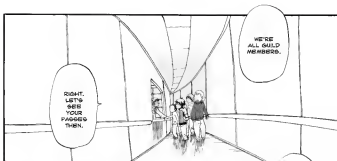
HE'S
WORKING
WITH JIN
NOW.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
AKITOSHI'S
SON.









RIGHT, LET'S
SEE
YOUR
PASSG
THEN.

WE'RE
ALL GUILD
MEMBERS.



YOU
THINK
SO?

WHAT
A
PAIN.

RUN
BACK



PIP

THE UPPER
LEVELS
ARE TOO
UPTIGHT
ABOUT
SECURITY.



WHY
DO WE
HAVE
TO
SHOW
OUR
PASSG
EVERY
TIME?



GIVE IT
A TRY
NEXT
TIME.
WTSU.

TAKEN
SEVEN
HOURS
TO
ADAPT
TO
THE AIR
PRESSURE.

THEY
SAY YOU
ADJUST
QUICKER
IF YOU
EXERCISE.



I'M GOING TO SLEEP.

WHAT DO WE DO FOR SEVEN HOURS?

YOU'RE NO FUN.



YES, SIR.

PLENTY OF TIME TO KILL. WITHU, MAKE SOME TEA.

MAKOTO, YOU JOIN IN TOO.



OF COURSE IT'S SCARY!

There was no one on board!

WHAT A LOOPY STORY-TELLER!



A SPACESHIP RETURNED FROM THE MOON - WITH NO ONE ON BOARD!

THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SCARY?



AND NOW, A TALE OF TERROR FROM OUTER SPACE.

I HEARD THIS ONE THE OTHER DAY.



JUST MESSING AROUND DUDE.



IT'S JUST YOU AND ME... ALL ALONE.

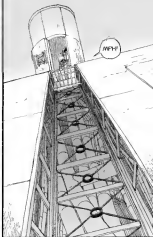
OH...



YASU AND THE OTHERS ALREADY WENT OUT.

ALL READY, WITSUP?

TEAH.





ARE YOU REALLY
SERIOUS ABOUT
STICKING WITH
THIS JOB?

HUH?



YEAH.



MITSU,
LET ME
TELL YOU
A STORY.

OH
YEAH?



YOU
KNOW
TAMAGI?

HEARD
OF HIM,
NEVER
MET HIM.



OH,
IT IS
NOW.

IS YOUR
LINE TO
HEAD-
QUARTERS
TURNED
OFF?



I hadn't
thought
about
it...

I HOPE
I CAN.



YEAH.

I WONDER
IF HE
SMILES
ANYMORE.

THE ONLY
FAMILY HE
HAD WAS HIS
GRANDMA.
HE TOOK
GOOD CARE
OF HER.

MUKOTO,
THE FOOD
AT THAT
STALL
ONCE
THERE IS
FANTASTIC.

THAT'S
YOUR
"TASTES
FANTASTIC"
PLACE?

EVER SINCE HE
WAS A KID HE
WAS QUIET AND
SILENT, BUT
ONCE IN A WHILE
HE WOULD
BREAK OUT IN A
BIG SMILE.

HE WAS A
GREAT GUY.



SO BY
THE TIME I
STARTED,
HE KNEW
THE ROPES.

TAMACHI
STARTED
THIS JOB A
FEW YEARS
BEFORE
ME.



HA
HA
HA

Y'KNOW,
YOUR
FACE
HAS
CHANGED.

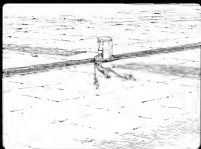
Really?

...IS
RIGHT
NEXT
TO
YOURS.

YEAH.

THE
BLOCK
I'LL BE
WORKING
TODAY....

TAMACHI.



DECOM-
PRESSION
SICKNESS
AND A
CONCUSSION
CAN KILL A
GUY.



AKI?



SHH!



HE ONLY
LISTENED
BECAUSE IT
WAS AKI.



TAMACHI
WASN'T THE
KIND TO
WALK AWAY
FROM A
JOB.

GET
BACK
INSIDE,
NOW.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THE POINT OF
THIS WORK.



CAN
I ASK
A WEIRD
QUESTION?



HM?

YOU'RE
THE ONLY
ONE
HERE,
AKI?

TAMACHI
AND I BOTH
LOOKED UP
TO AKI.

THE SAME
WINDOWS.
A WIND
THAT NEVER
STOPS.

A JOB
THAT
HAS
NO
END.





DON'T YOU
THINK
EVERYTHING
WE DO HAS
SOME
MEANING?



BUT IF YOU
DO IT LONG
ENOUGH,
IT'LL REDUCE
IMMUNODE-
FICIENCY
SYMPTOMS.



I never
saw
that
side of
my dad.



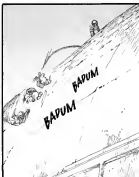
AK WAS
WHAT
I WANTED
TO BECOME.



I WONDER
WHY
THOSE
TWO
AREN'T
HERE
NOW...



I SEE...





MAKO-
TO?

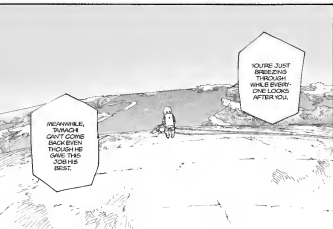
The
pack's
in the
way. I
can't
get up.

BUT YOUR
OXYGEN
TANK
MIGHT
COME
LOOSE.

DON'T
WORRY,
THE ROPE
WON'T
BREAK
THAT
EASILY.

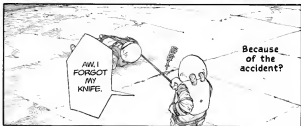


YOU
KNOW,
I CAN'T
STAND
YOU.



MEANWHILE,
TAKASHI
CAN'T COME
BACK EVEN
THOUGH HE
GAVE THIS
JOB HIS
BEST.

YOU'RE JUST
BREEZING
THROUGH
WHILE EVERY-
ONE LOOKS
AFTER YOU.



BUT HERE
YOU ARE,
WHERE HE
SHOULD BE,
PROTECTED
BY EVERY-
ONE.

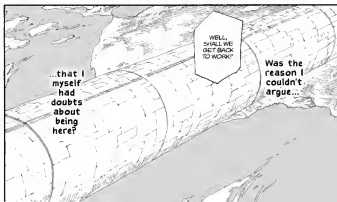
DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S
MESSED UP
THAT
EVERYONE
BUT JIN AND
ME HAS
FORGOTTEN
HIM?

YANK

HE NEVER
SAID A
WORD IN
HIS OWN
DEFENSE.

AS
LONG
AS
YOU'RE
HERE...

...I'LL
GO ON
HATING
YOUR
GUTS.





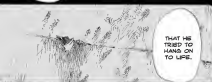




BUT WHEN
I SAW THE
EARTH, I
COULDN'T
PULL MY
EYES AWAY.

...I SAW
PROOF
THAT HE
TRIED TO
STAY
ALIVE.

AND
THERE, IN
THE SPOT
WHERE
DAD DISAP-
PEARED...



THAT HE
TRIED TO
HANG ON
TO LIFE.



BUT I
ALWAYS
SUSPECTED
THAT MY
DAD CUT
THE ROPE
HIMSELF.

THAT HE
WISHED
HE
COULD
GO
DOWN TO
EARTH...

...AND
THAT HE
ABANDONED
ME.



AND I
JUST KEEP
THINKING
ABOUT
IT AND
THINKING
ABOUT IT.

...SO IT'S
HARD TO
BELIEVE
HE'S
REALLY
DEAD.

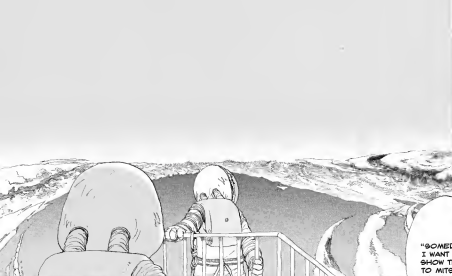
I WASN'T
THERE
AT THE
END...



I JUST
REMEMBER
WHAT HE
SAID.

I DIDN'T
ACTUALLY
SEE HIM
AT THE
END.

ME
TOO.



"...isn't it,
Tamachi?"

"It's
incredible..."

HE JUST
SPOKE SO
NATURALLY,
AS IF IT WAS
A REGULAR
CONVERSA-
TION.

"SOMEDAY
I WANT TO
SHOW THIS
TO MITSU,"
HE SAID.



...BUT I
CAN'T
QUIT
THIS
JOB.



TAMACHI,
I'M
SORRY...



Dad was
thinking
of me...



YOU
SAW THE
SAME
VIEW,
RIGHT?

AKI
WANTED
TO
TAKE
YOU TO
THAT
SPOT.



BUT THEY
TURNED
OUT TO
BE HIS
LAST
WORDS.

THERE'S
NO
REASON
TO QUIT.



...

What
will I
learn?



HAND IN
THERE,
KID.



...that I
should be
able to
discover
something.

YEA,
GIRL.

I
thought,
if I can
try as
hard as
Dad did,
if I can
do the
job like
he did...



floor 5: an ocean



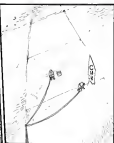


FW O

O

O





JUST
IGNORE
HIM.

HE'S
CALLING
US OVER.

Oh

NO HERE.
WE'VE GOT A
MESSAGE
FROM THE
CLIENT.



I'M MR. TANUKI.



THOSE RICH
TYPES ARE ALL
SLICK AND
SLIME. THEY
GIVE ME THE
CREEPS.



HE WANTS
YOU TO
STOP BY
AFTER
YOU'RE
FINISHED.

WTSU,
YOU GO.

S-S-S

?



YOU
MUST
BE
TIRED.

IT CERTAINLY
TOOK YOU A
WHILE TO GET
HERE AFTER
YOU FINISHED
YOUR WORK.

MR.
TANUKI?!



A
FAVOR?



NO,
NOTHING
LIKE
THAT.

I HAVE A
FAVOR
TO ASK.

TODAY
WE ONLY
FINISHED
HALF OF
THE JOB.

IS THERE
A PROBLEM
WITH THE
WINDOW
CLEANING?

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I'M TELLING YOU, IT'LL FREEZE BEFORE I HAVE A CHANCE.

JUST SPLASH IT LIKE THIS.



I TRIED SPRAYING WATER FROM AN AEROSOL CAN, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.

IT FREEZES INSTANTLY.



YOU CAN'T?



I'VE GROWN WEAK IN MY OLD AGE. MY DAYS ARE NUMBERED. PLEASE INDULGE ME.

...TO COMMEMORATE MY 30TH YEAR HERE.



WELL, GO TELL HIM WE CAN'T DO IT.

IT JUST CAN'T BE DONE.

MY FINEST WISH IS TO CREATE A GRAND OCEAN...



THAT'S NOT VERY CONVINCING, SIR.

REALLY?



WITH THAT GLOWING COMPLEXION?





I CAN'T
GET USED
TO THESE
UPPER
LEVEL
APART-
MENTS.

MR.
TANUKI!!



HE WON'T
LISTEN TO
REASON.
WILL HE
KEEP
PUSHING
IT?

OH,
MITSU.

THESE
PEOPLE
LIVE IN A
COM-
PLETELY
DIFFERENT
WORLD.



WHAT
WILL IT
TAKE?



SORRY, SIR.
THE ANSWER
IS NO. WE
CAN'T USE
WATER OUT
THERE.

HAVE
YOU
DECIDED
TO DO
IT?



ARE
YOU
LISTEN-
ING TO
ME?

ALL I WANT
IS TO MAKE
THIS ROOM
FEEL LIKE
IT'S INSIDE
THE OCEAN.





PLEASE UNDERSTAND.



JUST LIKE THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN'T DO...

...THERE ARE THINGS WE WINDOW CLEANERS CAN'T DO.



THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

SEEP



NO, WE CAN'T USE ANY WATER.

NOT EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT...?



YOU'RE RIGHT.

THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT CAN'T BE DONE.



WSH



THAT'S BECAUSE YOU PLAYED AROUND TOO MUCH AND SPRAYED IT EVERYWHERE.

I SAW THE WHOLE THING.



THAT WATER I SPRAYED THE OTHER DAY? I HAD TO FIND EVERY DROP AND VACUUM THEM ALL UP.

MY, MY...



WHY IS HE
SO CRAZY
ABOUT
WATER?

THAT
GUY...



...HAVE
STEADILY
CWINDED
IN NUMBER
EACH
YEAR.

THESE LONG-
ENDANGERED
CREATURES...



MR.
TANUKI.
THAT
CREATURE
...



WAIT A
SECOND
...





There
must be
just a
little
more I
can do.

THAT
TANK
IS A
STUBBORN
ONE.

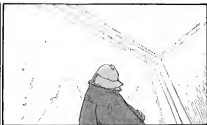
THANKS
FOR
HELPING
ME, JIN.

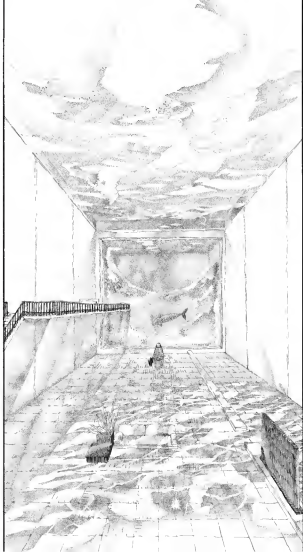
UM,
ACTUALLY
THIS WAS
MY
IDEA.

A
COMMISSION'S
A COMMISSION,
RIGHT?

RMM



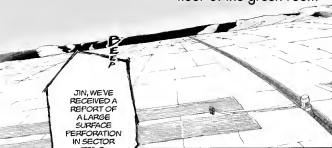




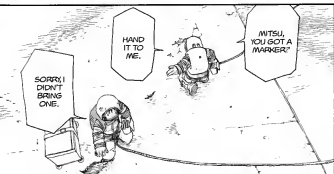
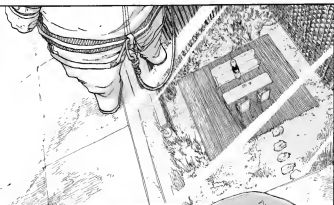




floor 6: the green room













HEY,
CUT IT
OUT.

NO
THANKS.

...LET ME
TELL YOU A
SHOCKING
STORY
ABOUT HIM.



SINCE
JIN'S
NOT
AROUND...



I HAD
A BAD
FEELING
ABOUT
THIS JOB
FROM
THE
START.

OH,
BROTHER.

I WAS
SUBBING
FOR JIN'S
PARTNER,
AND I
COULDN'T
SHAKE
THIS BAD
FEELING.



UH-
OKAY.

JIN'S
GONNA
BE
FISHED.

JUST.
LISTEN.



I'LL
JUST
BE A
MINUTE.
GO ON
AHEAD.

OH.

WHAT'RE
YOU
DOING,
ONE?

SEEMS
WE
MISSED
A SPOT.



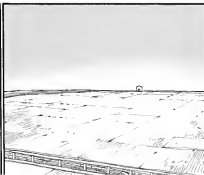
LOOKS
LIKE
WE'RE
DONE.

RIGHT.
I'LL
CARRY
THE
EQUIPMENT.

LET'S
HEAD
BACK,
KAGEYAMA.

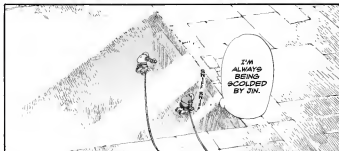




















I TRIED
SO HARD
TO GET
THEM TO
MAKE UP.

I ASKED
THE GUILD
TO HAVE JIN
CLEAN OUR
WINDOWS SO
MANY TIMES.



IT
CERTAINLY
WASN'T
ANYTHING TO
FIGHT OVER
LIKE THEY
DID.

...AND JIN
HAD TO
CLEAN
WINDOWS.
THEY HAD
NO CHOICE.

MY
HUSBAND
HAD TO
TAKE
OVER HIS
FAMILY'S
BUSINESS
...



HE'S
STUCK,
ISN'T
HE?



MONEY
...?

I
SEE
IT.



IT WAS
A LONG
TIME
BEFORE
THAT
ACCIDENT
REUNITED
THEM.



WHEN YOU
CLEAN OUR
WINDOWS,
THE SUNLIGHT
SEEMS
SOFTER.



I'M
GLAD WE
GOT YOU
TO CLEAN
OUR
WINDOWS.

YOU'RE
BETTER
THAN
THE
OTHERS.



I'M
THE
ONE
WHO'S
GRATE-
FUL...

THANKS
FOR
SAVING
ME.



...AND HE
SECRETLY
SCATTERED
THEM
OUTSIDE.

I
hope
you
won't
be
lonely
out
here.

I GAVE
JIN A BIT
OF HIS
ASHES...

SO...

I WONDER
IF HE GOT
IN TROUBLE
FOR THAT.





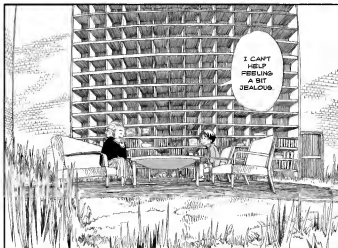
ONLY JIN
COULD
GIVE MY
HUSBAND...

...ALL
THAT
OPEN
SPACE.



WE'RE
STUCK
HERE
IN THIS
SMALL
SPACE.

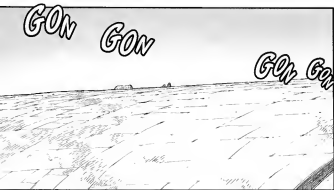
I WONDER
IF HE
FOUND HIS
FREEDOM
OUT THERE
IN THE OPEN.



I CAN'T
HELP
FEELING
A BIT
JEALOUS.



floor 7: beneath the mask















HE FELL...

HUP!

THERE WAS AN ACCIDENT DURING WORK, AND HE FELL FROM THE RING SYSTEM.



...THAT YOU'RE AKI'S SON.

HEY, JIN TELLS ME...

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN AGES, DID HE QUIT?



I CAN'T AFFORD THE KIND OF EQUIPMENT YOU GUYS HAVE.

THAT'S WHY MY FACE IS SO RED.

WOW.



I SEE.

SHE DIED RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN.

I DON'T REMEMBER HER AT ALL.



...

AND YOUR MOTHER?

IS SHE OKAY?



... SHE'S DRUNK.

NOBODY BOTHERED TO TELL ME ABOUT AKI.

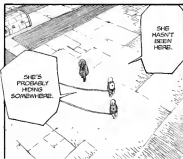
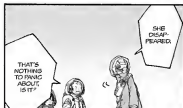
I REALLY AM JUST AN OUTSIDER.

WELL, I'M TELLING YOU NOW. PLEASE FORGIVE THEM.



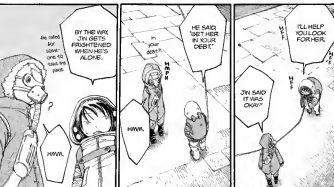
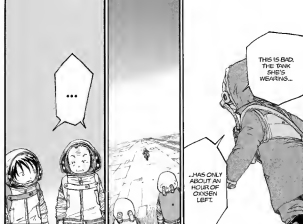
HUNH...

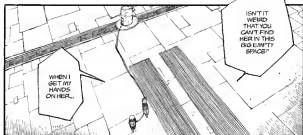
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V

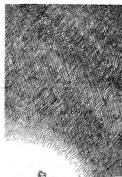
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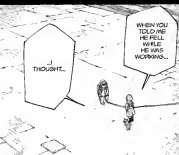




















floor 8:
artifice

THIS IS
THE THIRD
TIME...



AM I
DOING
SOME-
THING
WRONG?

...WE'VE
BEEN
ASKED TO
REDO
THESE
WINDOWS.









I HAVE
NO IDEA
WHAT THE
PROBLEM
IS.

THAT'S
ROUGH.



WE'VE HAD
TO REDO
THE SAME
JOB
THREE
TIMES.

THE
CLIENT
NEVER
GIVES
US ANY
SPECIFIC
DIREC-
TIONS.



I'M MORE
CONCERNED
WITH THE
PROBLEM
AT HAND.

WHO
KNOWS
WHEN
THAT'LL
HAPPEN?



WELL,
MAYBE
THERE
REALLY
IS A
PROBLEM.



IF IT IS,
I'LL KILL
THE GUY.

YOU THINK
IT'S SOME
KIND OF
HARASS-
MENT?



IF HE ASKS
US TO DO IT
AGAIN, MAYBE
I SHOULD ASK
DIRECTLY
WHAT HIS
PROBLEM IS.

HMM.

YOU
THINK?



...BUT HE
WOULDN'T
GIVE
ME AN
ANSWER.

JIN, I
SPOKE
WITH
THE
CLIENT..

HE JUST
SAID HE
WANTS
IT DONE
AGAIN.



HUH?



THAT
LOOKED
LIKE
A...

HE
TURNED
THE
BLIND ON
AGAIN?



SWP

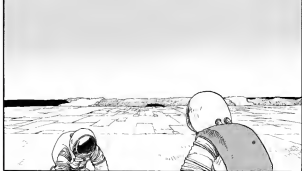
WOW

THAT
THING
UNDER
THE
CLOTH...

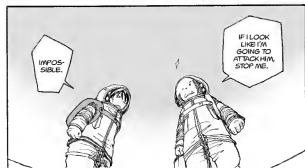






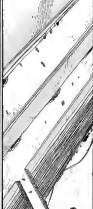








COME ON IN.



HI.



NO PROBLEM,
I WAS JUST
GETTING
SAMPLE DATA
FROM YOU.

SAMPLE
DATA?



WE'VE
CLEANED
THEM OVER
AND OVER,
WHAT'S THE
PROBLEM?

WHOA,
THAT
SHEET



I
COULDN'T
CARE
LESS.

WHAT DO
YOU THINK?
THESE
ARE ALL
PRODUCTS I
DEVELOPED.









BUT
YOU
KNOW
WHAT?

Is it all
meaningless?



A MACHINE
CAN APE THE
BASICS AND
DO SIMPLE
JOBS, BUT IT
CAN'T
REPLACE
A HUMAN
BEING.

...BUT I'VE
COME TO
REALIZE
THAT
NOTHING
CAN
SURPASS
THE HUMAN
HAND.

I'VE MADE
PLENTY OF
THINGS, AND
TRIED TO
MAKE A
WINDOW
CLEANER...



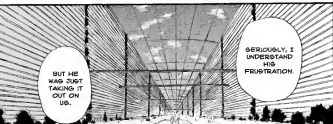
...AND IT
CAN'T EVEN
DO A
DECENT JOB
CLEANING
WINDOWS.

IT CERTAINLY
CAN'T REPAIR
IMPACT
HOLES...





I UNDER-
STAND HOW
YOU FEEL
BUT I HAD
TO DO
THAT.



BUT HE
WAS JUST
TAKING IT
OUT ON
US.

SERIOUSLY, I
UNDERSTAND
HIS
FRUSTRATION.



YOU'D
THINK
HE'D
HAVE
SOME-
THING
BETTER
TO DO.



HMP?
ME?

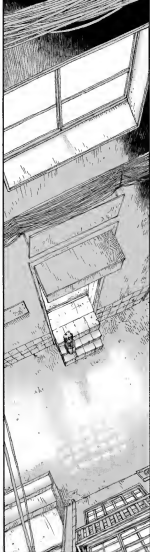
WELL...WHAT
DO YOU
THINK ABOUT
WINDOW
CLEANING,
JINP



UH...

ISN'T
THAT
RIGHT,
MITGUP!





in the loft







Thanks to Hideo Egami, Mami Hirai, Mitsuaki Kasai, Tetsuko, Kinoshita, and to you, for reading.

THE END OF SATURN APARTMENTS 1



saturn
apartments

SATURN APARTMENTS

Volume 1

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by HISAE IWAOKA

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Original Japanese edition "DOSEI MANSION" published by SHOGAKUKAN Inc.

Design of original Japanese edition by Kei Kasai

Translation/Matt Thorn

Touch-up Art & Lettering/Eric Erbes

Design/Yukiko Whitley

Editor/Daniel Gillespie

VP, Production/Alvin Lu

VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzalo Ferreyra

VP, Creative/Linda Espinosa

Publisher/Hyo Nanta

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Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC

P.O. Box 77010

San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, May 2010



www.sig680.com



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